

Mest Journal

Special Issue

The Multipolar Shift: Analysis of the Resurgence of Regional Free Trade Agreements and the Transformation of the World Economy

Author Guidelines

* Important:

- The publication of papers in the MEST Journal is completely free for authors, and the papers are available to readers completely free of charge.
- The estimated time of manuscript processing is less than two weeks from the date of the final version submission of the article.

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MEST Journal does not provide full English language editing. Manuscripts are checked for spelling and formal style, but authors are responsible for clarity and correctness. Authors are encouraged to seek professional language editing before submission.

Editorial interventions are limited to:

- correcting grammar, spelling, and typographic errors;
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Editorial interventions do not include:

- rewriting arguments or altering the author's style;
- modifying rhetorical choices, idioms, or tone (unless clarity is endangered);
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MEST Journal accepts the author's works through online submission or by e-mail submission (email address: mest.sp@meste.org)

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Submission of a manuscript implies that the corresponding author fills the [Declaration.docx \(36 KB\)](#) form and responsible declares:

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E-mail should contain the following items:

1. **Declaration**, which should include:

- The submitted article is an original work and has not been published before;
- The submitted article is not under consideration for publication anywhere else;(s)
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2. **Title Page**, which should include:

- The full title of the article (no more than 12 words)
- Short title of the article (no more than 50 characters including blanks)
- The name(s) of the author(s)
- The affiliation(s) and address(es) of the author(s)
- The short title (a concise and informative title, no more than 50 characters with spaces)
- The e-mail address, telephone, and fax numbers of the corresponding author
- **Abstract** (The abstract, paper summary, should be in the range of 150 to 200 words, and should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references. The summary needs to hold all essential facts of the work, such as the purpose of the work, used methods, basic facts, and specific data if necessary. It must contain a review of underlined data, ideas, and conclusions from the text, as well as recommendations for a group of readers that might be interested in the subject matter. The summary has no quoted references.)
- **Keywords**: Authors should include four to eight keywords below the Abstract for indexing and retrieval purposes preferably from the list given at <https://www.meste.org/Keywords.html> .

3. **Manuscript** should be prepared as a camera ready (*final version prepared for publication*), and submitted as MS Word document, in accordance with the template Mest_Template.docx, which can be downloaded from [MEST_Template.docx \(149 kB\)](#). Manuscripts are not limited in length, but precise and concise writing should result in an article length of 8 to 14 pages, prepared according to the proposed MEST template. Authors have to:

- use a normal, plain 10-point Arial font for text;
- Italics for emphasis;

- use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages;
- use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar;
- use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables;
- use the equation editor or MathType for equations;
- save their manuscript in .docx format (Word 2007 or higher);
- use the decimal system of headings with no more than three levels;
- define abbreviations at their first mention and use them consistently thereafter;
- avoid footnotes, but, if necessary, footnotes can be used to give additional information about some term(s). Footnotes should not be used to referee citations, and they should never include the bibliographic details of a reference. Footnotes must not contain figures or tables. Footnotes to the text are numbered consecutively, automatically by a text editor. Endnotes are not intended for use in the article.
- avoid the use of "the above table" or "the figure below";
- use the SI system of units is preferable.

4. References. New up-to-date information should be used and referenced. References should be cited in the text by name and year in parentheses, according to APA7. For detailed instruction about APA7, please visit <https://www.meste.org/mest/M/APA7.html>. *Manuscripts with incomplete or non-APA-compliant references may be returned to authors for technical revision prior to peer review.*

5. Acknowledgments. All acknowledgments, if exist, should be placed on a separate page after the Works Cited list. The names of funding organizations or people should be written in full, unambiguously.

6. Tables (All tables should be sent as separate files in .docx or .xlsx format.)

- All table files must be named with "Table" and the table number, e.g., Table 1.
- All tables must be numbered using Arabic numerals, and for each table, a table caption (title explaining the components of the table) should be provided.
- Tables should always be lined up in the text in consecutive numerical order.
- The previously published material should be identified by giving a reference to the original source. The reference should be placed at the end of the table caption.
- Footnotes to tables (for significance values and other statistical data) should be indicated by asterisks and placed beneath the table body.

7. Photographs, pictures, clip art, charts, and diagrams should be numbered and sent as separate files in JPEG, GIF, TIFF, or PNG format in the highest quality. MS Office files are also acceptable, but font sizes and the size of the figure must suit the size of the published article. The quality of submitted material directly influences the quality of published work, so the MEST Journal may require authors to submit figures of higher quality. All figure files must be named with "Fig" and the figure number, e.g., Fig1.

- All figures can be made as colored and will be published free of charge as colored in the online publication.
- All lines should be at least 0.1 mm (0.3 pts) thick.
- The scanned figure should be scanned with a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.
- For lettering, it is best to use sans serif fonts Helvetica or Arial.

- The variance of font size within an illustration should be minimal (the sizes of characters should be 3–4 mm or 9–11 pts).
- To increase clarity author(s) should avoid effects such as shading, outline letters, etc.
- Titles and captions should not be included within illustrations.

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9. Proofreading

After the decision that the paper will be published, a processed article will be returned to the author for approval. The aim of the approval is that the author checks if some incorrectness appeared during the processing. Also, the author checks the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables, and figures. Any change must be noted and returned to the MEST Journal. All changes must be specified and returned to the MEST Journal. Any substantial change can be done only with the approval of the Editor. After online publication, further changes can be made only in the form of an Erratum, which will be hyperlinked to the article.

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